IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-8 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid comprising

a) culturing a microorganism having an ability to produce an L-amino acid in a medium, whereby said L-amino acid accumulates in the medium, and

b) collecting said L-amino acid from the medium,

wherein said microorganism is a methanol-utilizing bacterium having the Entner-Doudoroff pathway and is modified so that 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity and/or 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity are/is enhanced as compared to a wild-type bacterium, and said L-amino acid is selected from L-amino acids produced by a biosynthetic pathway which utilizes pyruvic acid as an intermediate, wherein said 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity is enhanced by

A) increasing a copy number of a gene coding for 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase as compared to a wild-type bacterium, or

B) ~~modifying an expression regulatory sequence~~replacing the native promoter of said gene with a stronger promoter so that expression of the gene is enhanced in said bacterium as compared to a wild-type bacterium, and

wherein said 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity is enhanced by

C) increasing a copy number of a gene coding for 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase as compared to a wild-type bacterium, or

D) replacing the native promoter ~~modifying an expression regulatory sequence~~ of said gene with a stronger promoter so that expression of the gene is enhanced in said bacterium as compared to a wild-type bacterium.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said methanol-utilizing bacterium comprises a bacterium belonging to the genus *Methylophilus*.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine and L-valine.

5. (Withdrawn) A methanol-utilizing bacterium having the Entner-Doudoroff pathway, whereby said bacterium is modified so that 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity and/or 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity are/is enhanced, and has an ability to produce an L-amino acid via a biosynthetic pathway which utilizes pyruvic acid as an intermediate.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid which is a product of a biosynthetic pathway which utilizes pyruvic acid as an intermediate comprising

a) culturing a methanol-utilizing bacterium having the Entner-Doudoroff pathway in a medium, wherein said bacterium has the ability to secrete an L-amino acid into a medium,

b) collecting said L-amino acid from the medium,

wherein said bacterium is modified to enhance 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity and/or 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity, as compared to a wild-type bacterium,

wherein said 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase activity is enhanced by

A) increasing a copy number of a gene coding for 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase as compared to a wild-type bacterium, or

B) replacing the native promoter ~~modifying an expression regulatory sequence~~ of said gene with a stronger promoter so that expression of the gene is enhanced in said bacterium as compared to a wild-type bacterium,

and

wherein said 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase activity is enhanced by

C) increasing a copy number of a gene coding for 2-keto-3-deoxy-6-phosphogluconate aldolase as compared to a wild-type bacterium, or

D) replacing the native promoter ~~modifying an expression regulatory sequence~~ of said gene with a stronger promoter so that expression of the gene is enhanced in said bacterium as compared to a wild-type bacterium.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said methanol-utilizing bacterium comprises a bacterium belonging to the genus *Methylophilus*.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine and L-valine.